

Bird Banding Accomplishments 2005

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Abstract

Through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists within the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services, a total of 8,977 birds were banded in Wisconsin in 2005. Sixteen species of birds including ducks, geese, swans, eagles, hawks, owls, woodcock, mourning doves, and terns were banded at 154 sites across the state.

Background

For over 45 years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has organized extensive bird banding operations on state wildlife areas and private property at many locations across the state. Wildlife biologists and technicians within the bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services cooperate to band birds to meet specific research needs and to meet banding quotas assigned by the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Methods

Wild birds were captured using a variety of techniques including night-lighting, bait-trapping, drive trapping, mist-netting, and cannon-netting. Once the age and sex of the captured birds were determined, they were fitted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands. The band numbers, age, and sex of these birds were recorded on field sheets. Colored neck collars were placed on swans to satisfy the requirements of specific research projects. Specially prepared banding schedules were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland for permanent storage. Permanent banding records were also stored at the DNR Field Office at Horicon, Wisconsin.

Results

A total of 8,977 birds of sixteen species were banded in 2005 at 154 locations in Wisconsin. For waterfowl, 4,728 resident Canada geese were banded at 73 sites, 1,173 mallard ducks were banded at nine sites, and 1,530 wood ducks were banded at 12 sites. In addition, 4 bald eagles were banded at four sites, 15 osprey were banded at nine sites, 155 trumpeter swans were banded at 26 sites, 28 woodcock were banded at six sites, 631 common terns were banded at 2 sites, and 570 mourning doves were banded at 28 sites.

Table 1. Banding Summary for 2005.

Age and Sex

Species	Adult			Hatch Year			Local			U	Total
	F	M	U	F	M	U	F	M	U		
Green-winged Teal	10	38		22	20						90
Black Duck		2			1						3
Mallard Duck	133	27		584	429						1,173
Hooded Merganser				1							1
Wood Duck	141	551		343	495						1,530
Blue-winged Teal	1				1			38			40
Mourning Dove	55	133	50			321				11	570
Canada Goose	646	725		1,702	1,655						4,728
Trumpeter Swan			9						146		155
American Woodcock	2	6							20		28
Common Tern			114						517		631
Red-tailed Hawk		3		1	2						6
Cooper's Hawk				1	1						2
Great Horned Owl				1							1
Bald Eagle							3	1			4
Osprey									15		15
TOTAL	988	1,485	173	2,655	2,604	321	3	39	698	11	8,977